

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : William C. Dykstra, et al.
For : METHOD OF FORMING A TUBULAR
BLANK INTO A STRUCTURAL
COMPONENT AND DIE THEREFOR
Our Docket : ABCE 2 12581-1-2

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Dear Sir:

Please amend the above referenced application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This patent application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/944,769 filed September 4, 2001, which in turn is a continuation of Serial No. 09/481,376 filed on January 11, 2000, now United States Patent No. 6,322,645, which in turn claims the benefit of provisional application No. 60/155,969 filed September 24, 1999, now abandoned, and incorporated herein by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is possible to select materials, such as oxides, i.e. refractory cements, glass ceramics, high strength ceramics (e.g. silicon nitride, silicon carbide, zirconium oxide etc.). These materials can be either monolithic, or with various forms of reinforcements (composites), such as ceramic particulate reinforced glass. As an example, in one process for making the rigid hard shell, powder